

The Robert Lee Observer

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VOLUME 54

ROBERT LEE, COKE COUNTY TEXAS

FRIDAY, Dec. 24 1943

NUMBER 19

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

May the Lord grant you a joyous Christmas, much as it is possible for you to have under present day conditions. And may the coming year be one that shall be brighter and more prosperous for you and yours, as His Spirit shall guide you in His steps, is our prayer.

Harry Hames,
Baptist Pastor.

G. P. Lowrey spent last week end with his family.

It is a pleasure to print the Christmas Greetings for the patrons of the Observer.

J. S. Walker Sanco, and O. M. Ratliff, Robert Lee, Hamburger King, renews Observer.

Thus far Christmas weather is ideal.

Sgt. Leslie Reed came home on a 3 day furlough pass with 5 day extension for the holidays. He is at Frederick, Oklahoma.

Miss Ollie Green left Monday for Dallas where she will meet her nephew, Pvt. J. W. Swafford of Sheppard Field and spend Christmas with J. W. and wife.



Barbarians from across the seas would, if they could, banish Christmas forever from the earth. But there'll always be a Christmas! May the Christmas season of 1943 find you in the midst of a good old-fashioned Yule celebration.

Merry Christmas from all of us to all of you.

Campbell's Beauty Parlor



★ White Christmas or Green Christmas is a matter of both geography and of meteorology. But Merry Christmas is an affair of the heart. And that's the kind of a Christmas we are now wishing for you and yours as 1943 draws to a close.

Saunders' Grocery & Service



The Observer Wishes A Very Merry Happy Christmas to All of our Readers



As one hands down a good name, Christmas each year hands down its traditions, and all are good. It has been a tradition here to regard the good will of our customers as our most precious asset. In this holiday season of 1943 we extend to you, not as a customer alone, but as a friend, our very best wishes for a . . . Merry Christmas.

COKE MOTOR COMPANY



★ It's just about time for that perennial paratrooper, Santa Claus, to start his friendly invasion. We just want to say we hope he makes a happy landing, right in your home, bringing you more Christmas cheer than you've ever had before.

ROBERT LEE STATE BANK

FARM HOME BURNS

While Ben Steffey was finishing butchering his meat hog about 9 o'clock Thursday night, he heard an unusual noise. Stepping outside to see about it, a streak of light caught his attention. His house was on fire, and too far gone to save anything except a cedar chest. There was no definite clue as to the origin of the fire.

Take notice of the Greetings in this issue.

Jno. F. Robertson is here for a few days from Dexter, New Mexico.

NOTICE

There will be Sunday school at Methodist church Sunday morning but no preaching services.

We want to wish all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and we will be back in the services expecting to go forward the coming year.

W. Vasco Teer, Pastor

A special service for January 1st. Prayer Proclamation will be held some place in Robert Lee.

Miss Alto Bell Bilbo is at home for the holidays.

Charline Dean spent the week with her parents.



TO EACH AND ALL

May your Christmas of 1943 approach in joyousness the carefree Christmases of early years when you dreamed of the coming of St. Nicholas.

W. K. SIMPSON & CO.

ALAMO THEATRE

"THE BEST IN SCREEN ENTERTAINMENT"

ROBERT LEE TEXAS

Friday and Saturday Dec. 24-25

PICHARD DIX-LEO CARILLO IN

"AMERICAN EMPIRE"

BOB HOPE

Comedy and News

Wednesday only Money Nite Dec. 29

WILLIAM BENDIX-ARLENE JUDGE-MAX BEAR

"McGUIRENS FROM BROOKLYN"

Also "BATMAN" and "PRELUDE TO WAR"

TEXAS THEATRE

BRONTE, TEXAS

Friday and Saturday Dec. 24-25

MARY MARTIN-DICK POWELL IN

"HAPPY GO LUCKY"

IN COLORS

Also Comedy and News

Tuesday only Money Nite Dec. 28

WILLIAM BENDIX-ARLENE JUDGE-MAX BEAR

"McGUIRENS FROM BROOKLYN"

Also "Batman and Prelude To War"

The Star That Shone O'er Bethlehem Will Forever Be a Mystery to Science

Could It Have Been A Comet, a Group of Planets, or a Nova?

By ELLIOTT PINE

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem.

Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it stood over the spot where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

—Matthew 2:2-10

THE Star! Matthew calmly records the appearance of this marvelous heavenly portent as a historical fact. For 1900 years millions have believed that the majestic and unimaginably beautiful herald of the Messiah actually shone over Bethlehem, casting a beam of effulgent glory on that stable "where the young child was."

It has seemed entirely fitting that the birthplace of Christ should be pointed out in so magnificent a manner. Few laymen ever thought of questioning the reality of that star, although nothing like it ever was known before or after the momentous event. But astronomers, being exact scientists, have tried to reconcile the evangelist's words with the known facts on the nature and motions of heavenly bodies. The other three Gospels, by the way, do not mention the star.

In the 17th century, Johann Kepler, one of the greatest of the early astronomers, while calculating the orbits of the planets Jupiter, Saturn and Mars, extended his figures back to the time of Christ. He discovered that these three planets were in conjunction in the year 7 B. C., according to the calendar. Making allowance for the well known error in dating the year of Christ's birth, it was possible to call the year 7 of our era as actually the year in which Christ was born. Now if, as Kepler calculated, the three planets were very close together in that year, they would form a brilliant glow in the sky, during the month of December. So, Kepler reasoned, the conjunction of these planets was the Star of Bethlehem.

In Sign of Pisces.

This conjunction appears in the sign of Pisces, or the Fishes, every 800 years. Since the sign of Pisces had a special meaning to the Jews, it was entirely logical for the Magi to interpret an apparently new star within this sign as the long awaited

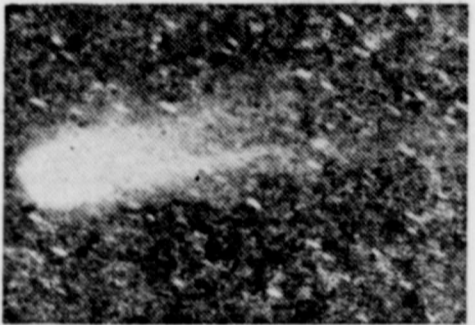
messenger from heaven, and to start on the long journey.

Kepler's theory satisfied pretty well until 1826, when Professor Ideler of Berlin pointed out that at no time are the three planets in absolute conjunction so that they would appear as a single star, even to the naked eye.

Another piece of evidence tending to cast doubt on the Kepler theory was brought in by the geographers. They showed that there were no roads or trails through the mountainous regions that the wise men had to traverse on which they could keep the planets in sight for any length of time. So this attractive explanation gradually faded out. It will not be until early in the 25th century, however, that scientists can test the full possibilities of Kepler's conjecture. It is not entirely ruled out until this time comes.

Perhaps a Comet.

In the last century came a new attempt to explain the Star. Prof. R. A. Proctor propounded the theory



WAS IT A COMET?—Theory that the Star of Bethlehem might have been a comet was advanced in the 19th century. This photo, taken in 1940, shows Cunningham's Comet.

that the mystic sign was really a comet. These celestial travelers of space, flaring up suddenly, moving across the sky often for days or weeks, and then disappearing, always impressed the ancients as mighty portents.

There are a few flaws in this theory, too, as several historians quickly declared. First, a comet was a fearful thing to all peoples of antiquity, a harbinger of evil to come, a warning of retribution for sin. The Magi, being learned in astrology, would know this, of course, and would not likely consider a comet an announcement of the Saviour's arrival. It is possible that these wise men did not follow the prevailing superstition. They might have called some comet his star. It is objected, however, that any comet bright enough to attract the wise men's attention would be noted down in some secular history—Josephus, in particular. There is no such confirmatory account.

The Nova Theory.

Lately, a plausible and poetic theory has been presented. The Star of Bethlehem may have been a "nova" or suddenly blazing star. For a brief time a nova may outshine every star in the sky. The most brilliant on record flared up in 1572. Another was observed by the aforementioned Kepler, and by Galileo, in 1604. Novae that can be seen by the human eye are rare. It is only since photography has been applied to astronomy that much is known about them. What causes the flaming phenomenon is not known, but possibly it is occasioned by the collision of two "dead" stars. The impact liberates the fiery interiors of the two bodies, and the seething gases swirl and shoot in a glorious display of light. The nova may burn for some time, but eventually it cools and fades, and generally dis-

appears from sight. Seldom do they last more than a few days.

So if a nova of extraordinary brilliance did burst forth a few days or weeks before the birth of Christ, this could be the Star toward which the wise men hurried, so long ago. It must be remembered, however, that the nova, if such it was, actually had burned out long before the first Christmas eve, because most of the stars are so distant that light takes many years to travel from them to the earth. Only lately the Nova Hercules has been seen, but its light has been traveling through space for 1300 years, at 186,000 miles a second.

Learned Guesses.

But these conjectures and scientific guesses are simply that—guesses. No one knows just what the Christmas Star was, or how it directed the wise men from the east to the little town of Bethlehem. It may be that, since there were prophecies to guide the Magi to that village in Judea, the Star did not exactly point the way, as some fanciful legends have put it, but merely indicated to the wise men the glorious day was near at hand.

The director of the Adler Planetarium in Chicago comments that no star could "stand still" in the heavens while the three Magi plodded wearily onward. It would swing with the other stars in the daily round, as the earth turns on its axis. And again, a star could not remain fixed over the stable on that night of nights, casting down a great broad beam of purest light. That is, no "natural" star could. It would move onward with the procession of the heavens, until it set below the horizon.

A Miracle.

But the world has believed in that Star for 19 centuries. Scientists do not deny that it could have been a miracle—that "Star of Wonder, Star of Hope" that shone over the crib of the Saviour. It is no more difficult to believe that a star could send its beams down on that sacred spot than that angels sang to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest." It is one more marvel among many marvels.

From the Scriptures and from tradition it is known that the three wise men or Magi ("Magi" was the term for astrologer in the East) saw a great light in the sky, and took it for the Star that heralded the birth of the King of the Jews, who would deliver mankind from bondage. The three learned men, called kings by tradition, mounted their camels, and came together, one from Chaldea, one from Persia, and one from Arabia. Their names, according to Bede, were Kaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

When they came to the stable in Bethlehem, they knelt in reverent wonder, like the simple shepherds gathered about the Babe, and offered their rich gifts of "gold, frankincense and myrrh." Today, although scientific knowledge has advanced a thousand-fold since the time of Christ, the mystery attached to all that sacred story remains.

The Star of Bethlehem is still a mystery to science. It will always remain so, for there is no way to recreate the physical conditions of that night, so long ago, and to investigate the phenomena with precise instruments. But millions of Christians will continue to believe that the glorious symbol of hope, the Star, shone over the little stable on that first Christmas, while celestial music floated over the countryside, and all the world was hushed in wonder.

AROUND THE HOUSE

Most rayon fabrics should be pressed when slightly damp, but spun rayons look best if ironed when almost dry.

Look over clothes and household textiles regularly, reinforce weak places and mend small holes before they grow large, and fabrics will last longer.

Try this some time in ginger ale. Put one tablespoon marsh-mallow cherry juice and several of the cherries in each glass. The result will delight.

To lengthen the life of your feather pillows, put them in a current of cool dry air frequently to keep them dry, fresh and sweet.

If you use electric extension cords, check them frequently for frayed places. Never handle a cord with wet hands and handle a wet cord only with a thick pad or dry cloth.

When the sweetness of cream is doubtful, stir in a pinch of soda. This will prevent curdling even in hot coffee.

Hat and Purse Are Jaunty Matchmates



JAUNTILY forward tilting or behind a youthful pompadour... either of these ways are right for the wearing of this pliant, easily adjusted beret with its flirtatious ruffle and matching bag. You can crochet both at little cost in spare moments. Use a short yarn.

Pattern 7639 contains directions for hat and purse; stitches; list of materials needed.

Due to an unusually large demand and current war conditions, slightly more time is required in filling orders for a few of the most popular pattern numbers.

Send your order to:

Sewing Circle Needlecraft Dept.
564 W. Randolph St. Chicago 80, Ill.
Enclose 15 cents (plus one cent to cover cost of mailing) for Pattern No.
Name
Address

White and Black Swans

All the native swans of Europe and North America have white feathers. The only swans with dark feathers are those which have their native homes south of the equator. Australia has black swans and the southern end of South America has black-necked swans in great numbers.

First Choice in the Service

If you've ever noticed the top of a Marine Officer's visor cap, you've seen on it something you won't find on any other cap worn in Uncle Sam's service—a neat "X" of looped braid.

There's a story back of that braided "X", and it goes back more than 150 years, to a time shortly after the U. S. Marines were first organized.

In those days of sailing ships, naval battles often ended in close hand-to-hand fighting, as the crew of one ship tried to board the other—and Marines, of course, were in the thick of the fight. Some were in the boarding party, and some were posted in the rigging to fire down on the enemy. It was because of those men firing from high on the masts that Marine officers—whose uniforms from above resembled the enemy's—fixed "XS" on their hats.

In other words, that braid meant to the Marines in the rigging, "X marks the spot—not to shoot at!"

Since those days, the "X" on the cap has become a standard part of the Marines' uniform. Another piece of "standard equipment" you'll notice among Marines these days—whether they're wearing dress uniform or combat dungarees—is the American cigarettes they carry with them wherever they go. In all those news pictures you've seen of Uncle Sam's fighting men, snapped as they are relaxing while "off duty," you'll find that in most cases they will be smoking a cigarette. And what brand do they prefer? Well, actual sales records show that the favorite with men in the Marines—as in the Navy—is Camel. Likewise, according to the sales records, Camels are first choice with men in the Army.

Fighting men who have come back from jungles, deserts, and mountains—wherever Uncle Sam's forces are stationed—give one pretty good reason for this choice. They say that Camels stay fresh—that out in the jungles of Guadalcanal, for instance, the Camels they get are actually just as fresh-tasting and full-flavored as the ones they used to get back home.

Of course, the millions of men in training camps here at home want their cigarettes just as much as soldiers. Your dealer now has Camels in special Christmas cartons, gay and colorful—and he will be glad to wrap them for you for mailing.—Adv.

AT FIRST SIGN OF A
COLD
USE **666**
666 TABLETS, SALVE, NOSE DROPS

British Food Rationing
Food rationing in Britain has been in force since January, 1940. Now the only unrestricted foods are bread, potatoes, seasonable vegetables and fruits.



WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE—An 18th century "presepio" by many authorities considered the finest example of this sort of art, presents the well-known Nativity scene. The perfection of the painted figures is remarkable. In the background, through the end of the gable, can be seen the miraculous Star.

EVERY SUNDAY NITE
FRED ALLEN
with PORTLAND HOFFA
AL GOODMAN'S ORCH.
WORKSHOP PLAYERS
Famous Guest Stars
PRESENTED BY
TEXACO DEALERS
KRLD—KWFT
KROD
and other
CBS Stations
8:30 P.M. C.W.T.



HIS STORE

which for a great many years has supplied the families of this community with neighborly things, wishes every family an unusually happy 1943 Christmas season.

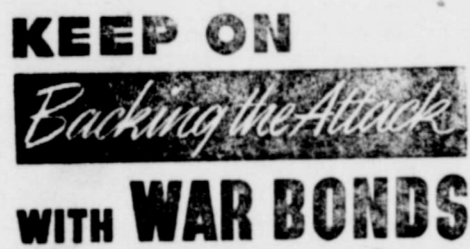
CUMBIE & ROACH



Santa may have new modes of transportation in his bag of tricks, but our wish is that his 1943 pack include a great big package of old-time Christmas cheer, addressed to you, dear friend—to YOU.

☆
D. P. Key

Rev. W. Vasco Teer is on the sick list this week.



Mr. and Mrs. Will Murtishaw were here over the week end, moving to Fort Worth from Crane.

MERRY CHRISTMAS 1943



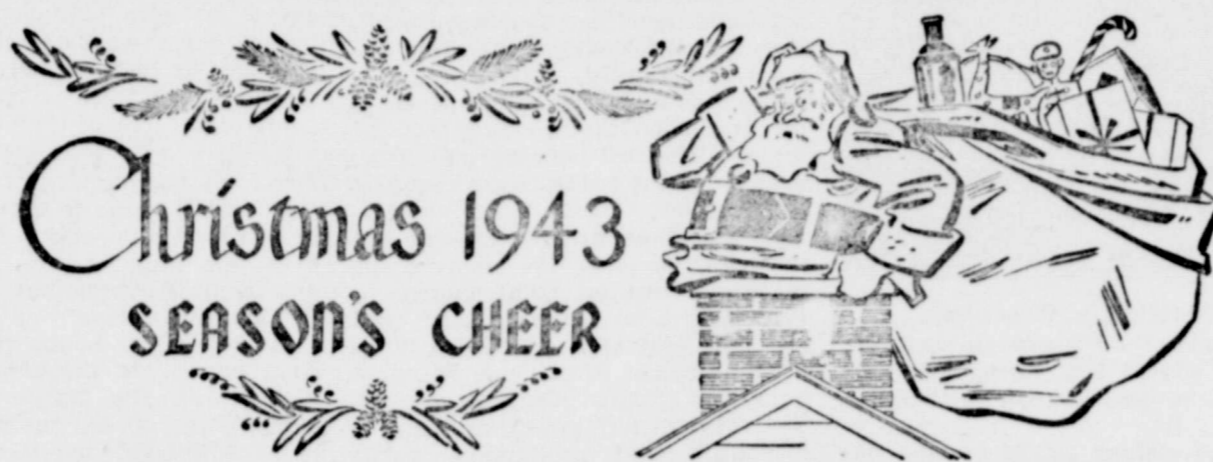
AMONG the things for which our boys are fighting is the right to celebrate Christmas in the traditional American way. It is with particular pride in our country's accomplishment in this direction and with firm faith for the future that we send you now our heartiest Christmas wishes.

OTIS SMITH



Judge McNeil Wylie

THE STAGE COACH has given place to the streamliner. The electric light has snuffed out the soft-beamed candle. Tinkling sleigh bells are drowned in the roar of motor horns. But who will say that Christmas has lost its charm? With Christmas at hand we renew our pledge of devotion to ideals of honest dealing, and express our appreciation of your friendship for us during 1943.



Frank Percifull Sheriff

"HEAP ON MORE WOOD, THE WIND IS CHILL;
BUT LET IT WHISTLE AS IT WILL,
WE'LL KEEP OUR MERRY CHRISTMAS STILL!"



Mrs. B. M. Gramling

TIMES HAVE CHANGED, but Christmas remains unchanged—the year's outstanding holiday in the timeless cycle of love and good fellowship. In the same old familiar way it gives us pleasure to wish for you in this season of 1943 the most in Christmas cheer and enjoyment.



Willis Smith



H. C. Varnadore

Season's Greetings...

If we have our way about it St. Nicholas is going to make an extra long stop at your home. No one needs to point out to us what your loyalty has meant to us during 1943. All we can say is Thank you, and Merry Christmas.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men

Who can estimate the value of good will, that "priceless ingredient" so conspicuously mentioned in that first glorious Christmas message? Be assured that we highly appreciate your good will. It has been and will continue to be our most treasured asset.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU!



BLEAK DECEMBER! 'Tis passing strange that this month which furnishes the least light out of doors, should furnish the most light within. It's the Spirit of Christmas, and the Merriest of Christmas to you!

Bruce Clift



WHAT matter if Santa comes in a jeep, just so it's Santa Claus? And it IS Santa Claus! And this IS Christmas. May the 1943 season be an exceptionally happy one for you and your family.

H. D. Fish

Cpl. C. W. Taylor is at home on furlough.

Mrs. Bob Burpo will spend the holidays with her folks.



As you tie up your Christmas packages think of us. We'll be thinking of you... thinking of how good you've been to us in 1943 and of what a pleasure it has been to serve you. And we'll be wishing you a very Merry Christmas.

Ratliff's Cafe

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Steady Progress Marks Allied Drive In Italy; Repulse Nazi Counter Blows; Steel Producers Open Wage Parleys As CIO Asks 17c an Hour Pay Boost

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

CONGRESS:

Surplus Funds

Government agencies with unspent appropriations would have to turn their surpluses over to the U. S. treasury under an amendment adopted by the U. S. senate.

Sponsored by Sen. Kenneth McKeller (Tenn.) the amendment was part of a \$308,000,000 deficiency appropriations bill later sent to a joint senate-house committee for settlement of differences between the two congressional branches.

The amendment was directly aimed against the budget bureau, which recently took control over \$13,000,000,000 saved by the army out of its \$71,000,000,000 appropriation. The amendment also prohibited the army from transferring 10 per cent of appropriations to other funds.

Said Senator McKeller: "We (congress) don't want to surrender our power to appropriate and designate the purpose for which . . . money shall be spent."

Remove Feed Duties

To encourage additional feed imports for shortage areas, the house passed a resolution removing duties on wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye, flax, cottonseed and hay for a 90-day period.

Although approved by a 255 to 55 vote, the resolution was bitterly contested by many middlewestern congressmen, spearheaded by Representative Frank Carlson (Kan.) who said: ". . . It will set a dangerous precedent by removing tariffs. It places the American farmer in competition with farmers of every nation of the world that produces these crops." Furthermore, they contended the action would not increase present imports, already hampered by shipping difficulties.

In advocating passage of the resolution, proponents declared current feed shortages are causing a loss of millions of pounds of milk and poultry production.

LABOR:

Open Steel Parley

With the United States Steel company leading the way, more than 150 steel producers agreed to enter into wage negotiations with the CIO, representing 500,000 workers in the industry.

Employing 166,000 workers, the United States Steel company is the nation's greatest producer, operating through five subsidiaries which turned out 21,064,000 tons last year.

CIO demands a 17 cents an hour pay boost to offset rises in living costs which have allegedly increased 23 per cent since January, 1941, while wage raises have been limited to 15 per cent. Present hiring rates are 78 cents an hour.

In the meantime, the independent union of the National Steel company asked a minimum wage of \$1 an hour for 20,000 employees, who thrice previously had been granted wage increases while CIO and other steel producers haggled over terms.

Senate Votes Boost

An eight cents an hour raise for 1,100,000 non-operating rail workers was approved by the senate by a vote of 74 to 4 and sent on to the house for consideration.

Composed of clerks, machinists, and cleaners, the unions originally asked for a 20 cent increase. A special board appointed by the President recommended an over-all eight cent raise, but Economic Stabilizer Vinson opposed it, proposing a substitute plan embracing a sliding scale ranging from four to ten cents more per hour. This latter schedule would cost the railroads 18 million dollars a year less than the flat eight cent raise.

Opposition to the raise in congress was based on the anti-inflation policy of the administration, Vinson stating that in his opinion, the eight cent increase is a violation of the "Little Steel" formula, limiting wage increases to 15 per cent over January, 1941, levels.

Sen. Clyde Reed (Kan.) said that if the senate rejected the plan the workers would set a strike date, and then the government would have to seize the railroads "within four or five weeks."



Battleship Wisconsin

As more than 30,000 cheered, the navy's 52,600 ton super-battleship, Wisconsin, was launched at Philadelphia, Pa.

In the making for 33 months, the Wisconsin cost \$90,000,000. With a speed of 33 knots, the huge warhorse will pack nine 16-inch guns, and carry as many anti-aircraft fighters in an area less than one-tenth the size of an average city block as an entire anti-aircraft regiment.

With a bow towering higher than a five-story building, the Wisconsin is one of the navy's three super-battleships, the others being the New Jersey and the Iowa.

ITALY:

Overlook Rome Road

Having fought their way to the crest of mountain ridges overlooking the road to Rome, doughboys from Lieut. Gen. Mark Clark's Fifth army slowly pushed down the slopes toward the flatlands around the enemy's key bastion of Cassino.

But in this sector, as well as the British sector along the Adriatic coast to the east, the Nazis bitterly counter-attacked, throwing in strong armored forces against Gen. Bernard Montgomery's men in an effort to slow his march toward the important center of Pescara, with its highway leading eastward to Rome.

As General Clark's doughboys edged forward, they left scattered points of resistance behind them, necessitating further action to remove these hot-beds and secure their lines. Continuing action, the Allies' air force pounded Nazi supply depots above Rome, which were being used to stock the enemy in his winter line.

Mihailovitch vs. Broz

While it was reported that Jugoslavia's Chetnik leader Gen. Draga Mihailovitch intended to throw his forces against his fellow-countryman Gen. Tito Broz's Partisan guerrillas for setting up a state in opposition to King Peter's government-in-exile, it was revealed that the British were favoring Broz because he allegedly was offering



Mihailovitch

greater resistance to the Germans.

Thus did the garbled Yugoslav situation take a new twist. Britain's support of the communist-backed Broz came after its formal recognition of King Peter's government, but in explaining its about-face, Britain said its policy was to let the people of occupied countries select their own leadership, and late reports indicated Broz had 300,000 behind him compared with Mihailovitch's 30,000.



Broz

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC:

Pound Marshalls

With Old Glory fluttering over the Gilbert islands, the U. S. navy went to work on the Marshalls, lying to the west along our communications lines to Australasia.

Taking off from aircraft carriers, planes roared over the Marshalls to drop explosives, while warships hovered 15 miles offshore to pump heavy shells into the islands' strongholds.

Primarily air bases, the Gilberts and Marshalls not only were a thorn in the U. S. supply lines, but they also flanked any Allied movement toward the South Pacific war theater. Their presence posed a double threat to our forces.

As U. S. airmen softened up the Marshalls, the country was saddened by the navy's announcement that one of its No. 1 aces, Lieut. Comdr. Edward O'Hare, was missing in action. During the battle of the Coral sea, O'Hare singly covered an aircraft carrier menaced by a Jap aerial squadron, shooting down five enemy planes.

MEAT SUPPLIES:

More to Civilians

Civilians as well as the services will share the increased meat supply under a plan outlined by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The BAE also predicted a smaller spring pig crop in 1944, with greatest reductions outside of the corn belt because of feed shortages. While western cattle inventories have not been cut sharply, BAE said, there will be fewer long range stock in the next eight months, and less animals will be fed near beet factories because of the cut in sugar beet feed production.

As a step toward increasing civilian meat supplies, the OPA recently slashed ration point values on veal and lamb, mutton and pork shoulder and loins, and War Food administration lifted restrictions on deliveries of farm slaughtered pork. The services will get a big chunk of increased beef production, partly through acceptance of utility grades.

PRODUCTION:

Sees Long War

Declaring 1944 munitions output should rise to a peak of 30 per cent over this year, War Production board's executive vice chairman Charles E. Wilson said the nation would have to make full use of its economic muscle to beat Germany and Japan.

A long, hard struggle lies ahead before Germany will fall, Wilson said, adding: "If anyone still clings to the silly delusion that the Japanese will be a pushover for us . . . let him talk to some of the officers and men who have come back from the Pacific theater . . ."

In 1944, aircraft production should reach a rate of 100 per cent above 1943, Wilson said. Naval construction should hold around this year's level of 75 per cent over 1942. Merchant ship construction should rise slightly. Reductions are planned in ordnance, signal equipment and tank output.

DADS' DRAFT:

Million to Go

Because the services will require 2,000,000 men to build up the armed forces to 11,300,000 by July, 1944, approximately 1,000,000 fathers face induction, Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey declared.

The other 1,000,000 men will be obtained by recruiting 100,000 17-year-olds for the navy or marines, and drafting 400,000 18-year-olds, 300,000 formerly deferred because of occupations, and 200,000 reclassified 4F's and farm-exempts.

Deferments will be more difficult to obtain and older workers will be favored, Hershey said. Once the services have attained their goal, only about 100,000 men will be drafted a month, he added.

For the home front, the War Manpower commission trimmed estimates for new workers by 900,000 to 1,100,000.

RUSSIA:

See-Saw

Fighting see-sawed in Russia, with the two giants clawing at each other along 600 miles of snowy, wintry front.

To the west of the Ukraine's capital of Kiev, the Russ fell back under the heavy pressure of the Germans, while farther to the south, the Reds chewed deep into Nazi lines above the iron center of Krivoi Rog.

Russian positions along the front disrupted German use of north-south railroads. In the Kiev region, the Reds blocked the line to Leningrad and the north, while in the Krivoi Rog area they snapped a railroad running along the whole German defense system.

Washington Digest

'Victory Volunteers' Proved Satisfactory Farm-Hands



Most of 700,000 Young People Made Good, Quickly Learning Agricultural Skills, And Working Hard and Long.

By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

World War II has taught the world that it is one thing to raise an army and another thing to feed it—feed its mouths and feed its guns.

It didn't take the United States long after Pearl Harbor to realize that it was easy enough to find enough sailors and soldiers if you didn't have to worry about finding the civilians to take care of them.

At present, 10 men out of every 100 are deferred from military service because industry needs them; 18 out of every 100 because the farmers have to have them. Thirty-six out of every 100 men now in the armed forces were working in shops or factories in 1940. Twenty-three out of every 100 were on farms three years ago.

Industry has charged that congress has been kinder to the farmers when it came to deferring their help than it has been to them. However that may be, you won't hear any farmers complaining about having too much help. One thing, however, according to the reports that have come into the department of agriculture, the farmers are not complaining on one score that a lot of them thought they were going to have to complain about—that is, the help they get from the Victory Farm Volunteers of the U. S. Crop corps.

Many farmers who came to scoff remained to pray for more of the same.

Not all of the young folks who worked on farms this summer were perfect. It is estimated that there may have been some 700,000 of these young people, half were provided through the Federal Extension service of the War Food administration, as many more probably found jobs for themselves. Under the leadership of the State Extension service and with the active support of the schools, the youth-serving agencies, civic organizations and farm leaders, these Victory Farm Volunteers were assembled. Most of them made good.

Their story makes an interesting chapter in the history of American youth.

A Huge Task

It was no little job to launch the project. Forty-three state farm labor supervisors and some 5,000 county farm labor assistants, under the guidance of the county extension agents, worked out the plans and procedure based on the local needs. They worked with state, county and often local labor committees.

Of course, training was necessary. The boys and girls were carefully selected and many specially trained and supervised, and the farmers themselves learned that they could train better if they had a little training in the art of teaching themselves. This was provided.

Most of the young workers lived at home and were transported to the farms. This was done in school buses, trucks or cars. Teachers, ministers, youth leaders, acting as supervisors, often accompanied the workers right into the fields.

In some places, boys lived in camps, but 50,000 boys and girls lived right with the families where they worked and many soon became a part of the family, joining its activities, church, grange meetings, dances, picnics. Some liked the life so well, especially those from the big cities, that they stayed right through the winter, attending the local schools.

Of course it was natural that the farmers were skeptical at first at the idea of letting these strange kids overrun their places. But the majority changed their minds when they found how well the experiment worked. The young folks couldn't rival a trained farm worker, but some were able to do much of the work as well, and in some cases, even better. Many farmers arranged to keep the same workers the next year.

I talked to one farmer who took on an utterly green city boy. It was late summer when I saw them both. They were going to part and I can tell you both were pretty blue. School time had come and the boy's parents thought he better come home. He told me that he was going to be a farmer when he grew up and I believe nothing will stop him.

I saw a letter from a Crop corps city girl, very able at expressing herself. I want to quote one paragraph: "I have felt," she wrote, "unutterable satisfaction pervade this new 'me' as I squeezed, pulled and caajoled the last squirt of rich white milk from a reluctant mountain of a Guernsey cow . . . I am learning to love this new life and am surer than ever that I have chosen well in deciding to make it my own."

The Misfits

One of the great troubles of the world are the misfits, the folks who are in the wrong job. There are a lot of newspaper men who ought to be barbers and a lot of barbers who might have been better sailors, a lot of farmers who ought to be in business. There are many people who have an inborn love of the country that never gets a chance to come out—they don't even recognize they have it. This summer, many of these young folks discovered themselves—realized that the country was where they belonged!

I can well understand the remark of one of these volunteers, who probably in his normal lifetime would never have had a chance to acquire the self-confidence behind a desk or at a bench, that he felt when he learned to drive a team of horses.

"I felt that I was the most capable person in the world," he said, "when I could finally drive a tedder through the hay."

It will be hard to keep him and a lot of his ilk down at the shop after he's seen the farm.

Winter Traffic Hazards

The war department is concerned over the annual December peak in auto accidents, and Robert P. Patterson, undersecretary of war, and Lieut. Robert E. Raleigh, director of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, have teamed up to try to stop them.

Seven valuable tips, based on National Safety council research, on how to escape traffic tieups, skidwrecks, lost time and road blockades have been offered:

- (1) Reduce speeds on snow and ice. It takes 3 to 11 times normal distance to stop on snow or ice. Repair old tire chains.
- (2) Protect visibility. Check defroster, windshield wipers, headlights and keep windshield clean. You must see a hazard to avoid it.
- (3) Use anti-skid chains. Tire chains reduce braking distances 40 to 50 per cent and provide traction on snow or ice.
- (4) Don't crowd traffic. When roads are slippery, allow three to six car lengths for every 10 m.p.h. because snow and ice increase braking distances 3 to 11 times over those required on dry pavement. Slipperiness varies, glare ice at thawing temperatures being twice as slippery as dry ice near zero.
- (5) Anticipate mistakes. Drive so that you are prepared for any emergency under prevailing conditions. Anticipate mistakes of pedestrians and other drivers.
- (6) Signal your intentions. In turning or stopping on hard-packed snow or ice, remember other drivers need more time and distance to adjust themselves to your moves. Give them a chance. Some may have neglected chains and have insufficient traction.
- (7) Mechanics are scarce and your vehicle may have to last for the duration. Essential transportation is vital to victory. An ounce of prevention is now worth ten pounds of cure.

Better Rural Roads

The National Highway Users conference calls my attention to a bill to create within the Federal Works agency a Rural Local Roads administration, independent of the Public Roads administration, to cooperate with the states and their local subdivisions in the construction of rural local roads. It is proposed in S. 1498 by Senator Stewart of Tennessee.

The bill would authorize appropriations of \$1,125,000,000 by the federal government to be made available at the rate of \$375,000,000 a year for each of the three years immediately following the end of the war for construction of all-weather rural local roads.

Bethlehem's Star Puzzles Scientists

Theories Are Advanced for
Celestial Guide.

What was the "Star of Bethlehem" that blazed in a midnight sky and led the Three Wise Men to the Christ Child's humble bed in a stable outside Jerusalem?

Science does not know. There is no such star now and all the evidence astronomers have been able to assemble throws no actual light on the subject.

However, Miss Maude Bennet, director of the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, says astronomers "do not refute" the story of solemn beauty and simplicity which has endured 2,000 years:

"... and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was."—St. Matthew.

The "Star of Bethlehem" has intrigued students of infinite space for many centuries.

Many Theories Advanced.

Miss Bennet said: "Astronomers cannot be accused of not trying to solve the problem the story presents. But all efforts have failed to reveal that the 'Star of Bethlehem' was an actual star.

"In the first place, stars do not 'stand still.' They appear to make a procession nightly across the heavens. But of course it is the earth which is moving."

Among the many theories to account for the "Star of Bethlehem" is that of a German named Edeler who announced after years of study that the Star was in his opinion, actually the conjunction of two bright planets moving in the same direction, creating one very brilliant image.

May Have Been 'Nova.'

Miss Bennet said: "It also might have been a 'nova,' or new star. They shine with great brilliance for a few days, then vanish.

"There was a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn about December 15 in 7 B. C., and since the exact year of Christ's birth is a matter of dispute, that may have been what the Three Wise Men saw.

"Another possibility is that it was Halley's comet which reaches its zenith about December 25 over Bethlehem."

Miss Bennet believes that the brightest of all planets, Venus, which is seen as a star, most nearly fulfills the Wise Men's description of their celestial guide to the humble birthplace of Christ.

Just Star Gazing.

She said: "It always is near the sun. It is seen only in the early morning, and now rises about three hours ahead of the sun—in the east, of course. Many who see it may believe they are gazing upon the 'Star of Bethlehem.'"

The brightest of all stars, Sirius, now is visible crossing the sky most of the night, and many also may take that for the holy star, Miss Bennet said. She concluded:

"It appears foolish to try to authenticate the story scientifically."

Good Friends



There's a benign look in Santa's eye as he looks over pictures of his very good friends, the boys in the armed services of their country. They are the last ones he would neglect.

Yule Trees in Water

Hold Needles Longer

If a Christmas tree is set in water when it first comes into the house and is kept in water while it is part of the Christmas decoration, it will remain fresh and green for at least a week longer. Water should be replaced as it evaporates. If the base of a Christmas tree is trimmed with a sharp knife just before it is mounted, the pores will be left open, allowing water to rise in the stem to the living cells which are still trying to provide the tree with food and moisture.



See Here, Private Hargrove!

by Marion Hargrove



THE STORY SO FAR: Private Marion Hargrove, former newspaper feature editor, has been inducted into the army and is nearing his completion of basic training at Fort Bragg, N. C. He has been classified as cook and in addition his failure to master some of the fundamentals of army training have resulted in considerable extra KP duty for him. He has also learned the finer points of "goldbricking" and "shooting the breeze." Hargrove has become editor of a section of the camp paper and these duties have kept him away from a lecture series. As we pick up the story, his sergeant is assigning him once more to KP for this infraction. Hargrove is trying to explain. He speaks:

CHAPTER XIV

"Sergeant, for days I round up news from battery reporters. There is always too much or too little. When there is too little, I have to write what is needed. When there is too much, I have to choose which battery reporter is going to horse-whip me for leaving his copy out."

"The chaplain is right up the street," the sergeant said.

"Then I have to edit all the copy, delete all classified military intelligence and take out all nasty cracks at first sergeants. Then I have to write headlines for all the stories and place them in whatever space I can find for them. Then I must draw everything up into pretty little pages. This is tedious and nerve-racking work."

"The chaplain will give you a sympathetic ear," the sergeant said. "I will give you only KP. Does anything you are saying relate to what we're talking about—why you weren't in the mess hall yesterday afternoon?"

"I was getting around to that, sergeant. On the day before the paper is issued, I have to go into Fayetteville to keep a careful watch over the printers, to see that they don't put Third Regiment news on the Fourth Regiment page. If I am not there, they may even mix headlines and put church notices under 'Service Club Activities.' It is necessary that I be there."

The sergeant coughed. "I feel for you, Private Hargrove; I deeply sympathize. I wouldn't think of putting you on KP—"

"You wouldn't?" I gasped. "Don't interrupt," the sergeant barked. "As I was saying, I wouldn't think of putting you on KP—if you hadn't committed a breach of etiquette by failing to RSVP the invitation. You didn't tell us you weren't coming. Or why."

I was dozing peacefully at my typewriter the other morning when there came a knock on my elbow and a bright young voice shouted "Hey!" at me. I looked up into the impish, cheerful, and unquenchably mischievous face of the boss' daughter, Miss Sidney Winkel, age four.



"Let's be reasonable, Pvt. Mulvehill," I said; "As you know, I am working on Capt. Winkle's sympathies to get a furlough."

Miss Winkel was dressed like the Navy and looked entirely too energetic for such a drizzly morning.

"I'm to be the Valentine," she said, "and Johnny's going to take my picture and you're to take me up to the Service Club and carry Johnny's things for him and wait for him to get there so you'd better put on your jacket and cap and let's go."

"I'm going to have my picture taken with Spud Parker," she added. Spud Parker is the general's son and is considered quite an eligible bachelor by the younger set.

"There's Tom in the cafeteria," she said. "Let's go see Tom."

Thomas James Montgomery Mulvehill, Pfc., was apparently making his morning rounds in search of news. He was, at the moment, engaged in his daily research in the Service Club's toast and coffee.

"Hello, sis," he said. "Hello, McGee. Pull up a chair. McGee, get the lady a drink. Something tall and cool. Such as a chocolate milk. What's the deal, sis?"

"I'm to be the Valentine," she said, "and Johnny's going to take my picture and old Hargrove has to

take care of Johnny's stuff until Johnny comes and I don't like him anyway because he makes faces and sticks out his tongue and says sticks and snails and puppy-dog tails that's what little girls are made of and he's not my boy friend anyway."

"No punctuation," I said. I wagged my ears and stuck out my tongue at her.

"The next time I come," she said, "I'm going to bring some soap and every time he sticks out his tongue I'm going to put soap on it because it isn't nice to stick out your tongue." She emphasized her statement by paralyzing my wrist with her fist and sticking her tongue out at me.

"Let's have no unnecessary vibrations, McGee," said the Lieuthomas, looking up reproachfully over his glasses. "Coffee is five cents the cup." He beamed at her. She beamed back at him.

"I have seven boy friends," she said, raising one forefinger delicately and rubbing the other against it in a highly jeering gesture. "I have seven boy friends and you're not one of them and you're not anybody's boy friend." She hit me this time on the elbow and I made a horrible face at her.

"Myaaaah," I said. "Who wants to be your boy friend anyway?"

"Oh there's Johnny," she suddenly cried, "and he's going to take my picture and—" She tripped off with a bewitching smile for Bushemi and a running line of babble.

"No punctuation," I said to Mulvehill.

"It's a woman's world, McGee," he said, reaching for another slice of toast.

"Get him away from me, Bushemi!" roared Private Thomas James Montgomery Mulvehill. "He's got that gleam in his eye. Get him away!"

"You're just being difficult, Lieuthomas," I told him. "Just sit down and relax." The Lieuthomas laid his enormous frame on the bunk and started slapping his knees in utter despair.

"What kind of deal are you trying to swindle this time?" he asked.

"Let's be reasonable, Private Mulvehill," I said, patting him reassuringly on the shoulder. "As you know, I am now working on Captain Winkel's sympathies to get a furlough sometime in February . . . the first half of February."

"I know what's coming," he screamed. "And I won't do it! I can't do it!"

"Now, as you know, furloughs are laden with little expenses—necessary little expenses. To help me along with the load, Sergeant Sher and Private Bushemi have already made philanthropic little loans. I have your name on my honor roll here, Lieuthomas. What's the donation?"

The Mulvehill cringed and edged away. "What do you need—from me?"

"Well," I estimated, "I should say that ten dollars."

"Great gods and refugee children," he gasped. "Ten dollars he says yet! Why don't you ask me for my life's blood? Six dollars he owes me already and now he's asking—oh, I can't stand it! I can't stand it! Take him away!"

"My life's blood," he moaned. "Where's the six I lent you two months ago?"

"That was only five weeks ago," I reminded him gently, "and I've already paid two of that back. Three weeks ago I paid it back."

"Yeah," he protested, "but you borrowed it back the next day." He rose and paced the floor. "What are they doing to me? My life's blood they would draw from my veins? Thirty-six measly little dollars a month I make—and he wants ten dollars! Maybe I'm Winthrop Rockefeller I should lend out ten dollars a clip! Thirty-six dollars, and he wants half!"

"You see, Lieuthomas, a sad and work-worn creature—an Alice sit-by-the-fire whose only hope for the future is in the faint glimmering hope of a furlough. Day after day, week in and week out, I have worked my frail fingers to the shoulder blade to make things pleasant for you and Bushemi and Bishop. I have patched your quarrels with the mess sergeant. I have saved you from the terrible wrath of provoked Rebels. I have sat here at night, sewing buttons on my blouse so that you wouldn't have to wear it hanging open on your merry jaunts to town. Money could not pay for the things I have done for you and Bushemi. And now this. Ten dollars between me and spiritual starvation—and no ten dollars. How sharper than a serpent's tooth."

"Don't talk like that, Hargrove," he said, his voice cracking. "Put me down for ten."

There was a little note stuck in my typewriter when I came back from prowling for news. It looked like Private ("One-Shot") Bushemi's typing. "The stockholders of the Union of Hargrove's Creditors," it read, "will hold a business meeting this evening about seven o'clock in the latrine of Barracks No. 2, Headquarters Battery. Please be present or we will beat your head in."

It was the day before my furlough, so I got the general drift. The vultures who were contributors to the furlough would probably stand around frowning and figure out some sort of budget for my vacation. I could picture the blue-nosed demons slashing away at my enjoyment.

The meeting had an unexpectedly small attendance: Maury Sher, mess sergeant of Battery D of the Third and chairman of the ways and means committee of the Union; Private Bushemi, principal stockholder and president; and Private First Class Thomas James Montgomery Mulvehill, chaplain.

Private Mulvehill beamed. "Sergeant Sher sends his regrets. He has a heavy heavy in Lillington. He is with us in spirit, though."

"Come in, drip," said Bushemi.

Sergeant Sher got down to business. "I've got to hand it to you, son," he said. "Gone through this much of the month and still haven't tried to get any of your furlough money back from the chaplain! We're all proud of you."

"Shucks," I blushed. "Twern't nothin'. I was able to bum a cigarette here and there."

"McGee," said Mulvehill, clearing his throat, "you leave tomorrow for New York, where there are many snares to trap the unwary. Don't buy any gold watches in the park or any stolen furs anywhere. You know, I presume, about buying the Brooklyn Bridge."

"Now, we don't have any restrictions about the way you use your money," said Bushemi. "Only last time you spent too much money on taxicabs. You'll have to use the buses and subway more this trip."



"Little man," she said, "will you please ask the waiter for more water?"

All the shows you want to see, all the books you can buy—but taxicabs only for very special dates."

"Must I be treated as a child?" I asked.

"When you get back broke, McGee," said Mulvehill, "you are not to eat breakfast at the Service Club. You are not to take out any post exchange books. You will get your cigarettes from Sergeant Sher, who will ration them out to you as per budget."

Sergeant Sher, Private Bushemi, and the other members of the Union of Hargrove's Creditors would have been quite pleased at the sight. Instead of spending their money lavishly on taxicab sightseeing trips and expensive shows, I was dining quietly in a conservative grillroom with the Redhead. We weren't even discussing ways to spend their hard-earned money.

"Little man," she said, "will you please ask the waiter for more water?"

"I beg your pardon," he said, rather unctuously. "There is a fifteen million gallon shortage in water at this very instant. On the other hand, madame, all supply ships to Great Britain use Scotch whisky as ballast for the return trip. Perhaps madame would like a glass of Scotch whisky?"

The Redhead lifted an eyebrow. "I wonder," she said, "what they use in the finger bowls here—rubbing alcohol? I do not want Scotch whisky. I want water."

"It is as madame wishes," the waiter said, bowing from the knees. He walked away and returned again to lean against a post. The Redhead drummed her fingers on the tablecloth.

"Don't be afraid of him," said the Redhead. "Call his bluff." (TO BE CONTINUED)

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.
Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for December 26

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GOD'S GREAT LOVE AND HIS GIFT

LESSON TEXT—Matthew 2:1-12.
GOLDEN TEXT—For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.—John 3:16

Christmas brings us all back to the Christ-child in Bethlehem, and we are reminded anew of our Lord's coming into the world to be the Redeemer. For the babe of Bethlehem is the Christ of the cross, of the resurrection, and the coming King.

The story of the coming of the Wise Men to seek the One who had been "born King of the Jews" reveals several attitudes toward Christ which find their counterpart in our day.

I. Expectancy (vv. 1, 2).

These men of another race were familiar with the Jewish Scriptures and knew that the Messiah was to come. Many others, including the religious leaders of the Jews, had the same information. But these men of the East differed in that they looked for His coming with keen desire and expectancy.

One wonders if we have not become so familiar with the story of Christmas that we, like the Jews, have a dead knowledge without expectant faith. We need to awaken and look to God for new grace and strength for these days.

II. Fear (vv. 3, 7, 8, 12).

Herod was a capable, ruthless, ungodly ruler who feared only that someone would take his power from him. He was so determined that this should not happen, that he killed many members of his own family for whom he otherwise had apparent affection.

When he heard that Jesus, who was the real King of the Jews, had been born, he feared, and laid crafty plans to destroy Him. God saw to it that his purpose was not carried out.

There are those of our time who fear the coming of Jesus, because they will not have Him to rule over their lives. They love their selfish ways, and their sinful pleasures; and when they face the question of what they will do with Jesus (and face it they must!), they have only fear and hatred in their hearts.

III. Indifference (vv. 4-6).

When the Wise Men came to Jerusalem to inquire where the Christ was to be born, they received an immediate answer—in Bethlehem. That was clearly foretold in Micah 5:2. The priests and scribes knew all about it, but their knowledge did not move them to action. They told the Magi where to go, but they did not go themselves.

How sad it is to see the indifference of our day to the claims of Christ. There are many who think that simply because they do not hate the church, or the Bible, or do not fight against it, they are guiltless. How wrong they are will appear to them if they will read Matthew 11:23, 24 and recall that the sin of Capernaum was only indifference.

IV. Joy (vv. 9, 10).

These earnest seekers for the Christ-child were full of joy even before they saw Him. "When they saw the star," and knew that God was indeed leading them, their hearts leaped within them as "they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

Christmas is the time when there should be real joy in our hearts. It is not enough to be "merry" or "happy." In fact, many thousands could not possibly find anything to be happy about this year.

Happiness depends on what happens, but joy is the gift of God!

V. Worship (v. 11).

When they saw Christ, they worshipped. Have we been as wise as they were? Then they made gifts, showing that their worship had that reality which made them ready to sacrifice for Him. Have we done anything this Christmas to show our joy and gratitude for the redemption we have in Christ?

The writer of these lines (which will reach you just before Christmas) wants to wish you and yours a very blessed Christmas, and to assure you that he is praying for you that regardless of circumstances the joy of the Lord may fill your soul. Christ has come. He is with us now by faith. He will come again to reign. The Child of Bethlehem's manger is our Great Saviour and Glorious King. Rejoice in Him!

CHANGE TO **M SYSTEM** AND POCKET THE CHANGE

"M" SYSTEM SPECIALS



"OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE"

sums up, in two words, the achievements of our armed forces. We, too, strive for outstanding performance in every item of service. We thank you most cordially for your good will and patronage and wish you the Season's Greetings.

- Figs** Adriatic Extra Fancy 1 lb. cell-o 35c. Ext. choice lb. **29c**
- Gelatin, Knox pkg.** **15c**
- OLIVES** Mamoth Spanish large Jar **49c**
- PICKLES** Sour and Dill Ma Brown full Qt. **25c**
- GHERKINS** Heinz Royal Sweet Midget 9 oz. **49c**
- PIMENTOS** Old Mission small Jar **10c**
- NAPKINS** Cocktail Best Wishes pkg. **10c**
- Extract** Coconut Flavor 4 oz. bot. 15c
Imt. Vanill Flavor 8 oz. bot. **10c**
- Fruit Cocktail** Nugget 13½ oz. can 15 (pts) **15c**

PRODUCE

- Oranges** Arizona Large size a bargain doz. 59c. box **\$5.89**
- Tex. Oranges** Fancy qual. bu. **\$2.99**
- Texas Grapefruit** bu. **\$2.39**
- Apples** From State of Washington Del. W-Saps, Rome Beauties lb. **11c**
Delicious or Rome Beauties large size box **\$4.92**
- Pecans** Fancy Paper Shells lb. **39c**
- Almonds** lb. pkg. **49c**
- Peanuts** Jumbo Red, Raw or Roasted lb. **27c**
- Cocoanuts** Honduras while they 1st med 23c. 29c
- CELERY** California Utah Type stalk **19c**
- Carrots** South Texas bunch **08c**
- CABBAGE** lb. 3½c **YAMS** East Texas lb. 8½c
- LETTUCE** Fancy Quality Jumbo heads each **15c**
- LEMONS** California Sunkist large doz. **27c**
- Mince Pies** ea 35c — Pecan Pies **40c**
- Fruit Cake** 5 lbs. **\$4.19**
- Assorted Layer** **CAKES** each **54c**

MARKET

- Fresh Liver** lb. **19c**
- Choice Round** Steak lb. **35c**
- Sirloin** Steak lb. **29c**
- Sliced Bacon** Grade A lb. **39c**
- Country** Butter lb. **45c**
- Salt Jowls** For Boiling lb. **15c**

holiday greetings #



★ Uncle Sam is to be congratulated, for he has done and is doing a magnificent job. This is, indeed, occasion for Christmas cheer.

Our compliments to you, friends, our thanks, and our most hearty wishes for an enjoyable and truly happy 1943 Christmas season.

City of Robert Lee

Sgt. and Mrs. Earl Childress are here for the holidays. Earl is stationed at Camp Wolters.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Smith of Amarillo visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Smith last week.

There'll always be a Christmas



GENTLE WORDS, OPEN HEARTS, WILLING HANDS, SOFT MUSIC, FRIENDSHIP, LOVE... THIS IS CHRISTMAS! MAY IT BRING YOU HAPPINESS AND JOY BEYOND EXPRESSION...

D. L. Vestal

If your paper has a 43 date it needs to be renewed.

San Angelo and Lufkin are up for the state football championship.



We've been thinking, folks, that you've been very good to us during 1943, and right now is the most appropriate time to thank you. So thanks, everybody, and a very happy Christmas!

Latham's Feed store

Pvt. Horace Young, son of the editor and wife has been transferred from Keesler Air Field, Miss., to Laredo Army Air Field Laredo, Texas.

RED & WHITE

SPECIALS FOR FRIDAY & SATURDAY



Xmas Candy pkg. **10c**

Nice Pecans lb. **35c**

No. 1 R&W Fruit Cocktail 20 pt **20c**

No. 2 R&W Crushed Pineapple 30 pts **20c**

Red & White Tomato Juice 13½ oz. 3 pts 3. **25c**

16 oz. Sun Spun Salad Dressing Jar **25c**

1 lb. Red & White Coffee **29c**

PRODUCE

Extra Large Head LETTUCE **15c**

Celery stalk **24c**

No. 1 Texas Tomatoes lb. **17c**

Lots of Nice Apples, Oranges, Fruits Reasonable

MARKET

STAR Cured HAM ½ or whole lb. **33c**

STAR Cooked HAM ½ or whole lb. **37c**

Fresh Ground Meat for Loaf per. lb. **23c**

Rib or Brisket per. lb. **20c**

Blue & White Oleo per. lb. **19c**



WE PAUSE, on the Eve of Christmas, 1943, to contemplate how much we owe the perennial character of our customers. With gratitude and pride we scan the list. Some of these customers have been with us for more than a quarter of a century.

To these old customers, to new ones, and to potential ones every member of this organization now joins in wishing "Merry Christmas."

Bryan's Dairy

W. F. Fikes renews his Ob-server up to 1945.

Sgt. Campbell of Goodfellow Field visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Good, Sunday, a guest of Miss Katie Sue.



FROM WHENCE DID THESE GLAD TIDINGS COME? NOT FROM ATHENS, NOR YET FROM ROME, AT THAT TIME THE HEART OF WORLD POWER. THEY CAME OUT OF A LITTLE COUNTRY, PALESTINE. ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY-THREE YEARS LATER THE GLAD TIDINGS RING OUT AGAIN. NEED WE SAY THAT WE WISH YOU THE FULL JOYOUSNESS OF THIS HOLY SEASON?

Alamo and Texas Theatres